

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-07 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 DHA-02 IO-13

AID-05 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /078 W

-----020932Z 091281 /11

O R 020855Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5276

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE FREETOWN 1386

MONROVIA FOR AMBASSADOR CARTER

SECSTATE FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY SCHAUFELLE

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: EAID, PINT, PFOR, SL

SUBJ: VISIT BY WORLD PEACE THROUGH LAW GROUP

1. ON APRIL 30 I RECEIVED COMMERCIAL TELEGRAM FROM WASHINGTON JUDGE WILLIAM THOMPSON NOTIFYING ME OF VISIT TO FREETOWN MAY 4-7 OF WORLD PEACE THROUGH LAW CENTER (WPTLC) TASK FORCE. FREETOWN ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL STOPS IN AFRICA AS GROUP CONSIDERS SUBJECT OF ACCESS TO LAW FOR POORER PEOPLE OF DEVELOPING NATIONS AS MEANS OF OBTAINING HUMAN RIGHTS. WPTLC VISIT FUNDED BY AID/W.

2. TASK FORCE COULD NOT HAVE CHOSEN WORSE TIME TO VISIT SIERRA LEONE SINCE GENERAL ELECTIONS ARE MAY 6. ALL IN GOSL AND MOST LAWYERS AND DIPLOMATS WILL BE FOCUSING ON ELECTIONS. HUMAN RIGHTS NATURE OF VISIT CAN EASILY BE MISCONSTRUED
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IN TWO POSSIBLE WAYS, EITHER ONE OF WHICH WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE. FIRST, GOSL COULD VIEW GENERAL INTEREST OF WPTLC AS MASQUERADING SPECIFIC INTEREST IN ELECTION AND ACCUSE GROUP OF INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. OR, SECONDLY, GOSL COULD USE PRESENCE OF PRESTIGIOUS LEGAL GROUP TO GIVE INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTABILITY TO ELECTIONS, WHICH MAY INDEED NOT BE FAIR, BUT MAY APPEAR SO TO GROUP UNFAMILIAR WITH LOCAL CONDITIONS

SUCH AS WPTLC. FINALLY, FUNDING OF VISIT BY USG, REGARDLESS OF DISTANCE MAINTAINED FROM THIS PVO, COULD EASILY LEAD GOSL TO DRAW UNINTENDED INFERENCES ABOUT USG STANCE TOWARD ELECTIONS. DURING PAST THREE MONTHS, EMBASSY HAS WALKED DIFFICULT TIGHT ROPE TO AVOID RECURRENCE OF ACCUSATIONS OF INVOLVEMENT IN SL INTERNAL AFFAIRS. I SEE NO REASON TO RISK UNDERMINING THIS SITUATION BY THIS VISIT.

3. THOMPSON'S CABLE INDICATED LIBERIAN DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL ROLAND BARNES WILL BE IMPORTANT PART OF TASK FORCE IN FREETOWN. LIBERIAN AMBASSADOR WALLACE AGREES WITH ME THAT FREETOWN VISIT SHOULD, AT THE LEAST, BE POSTPONED FOR WEEK TO TEN DAYS. HE WILL BE CONTACTING GOL TODAY TO PASS ON HIS VIEWS.

4. FOR MONROVIA. I UNDERSTAND TASK FORCE MAY NOW BE IN MONROVIA. I SHOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CONTACTING JUDGE THOMPSON, EXPLAINING TO HIM RELEVANT PORTIONS PARA 2 ABOVE, AND TELLING HIM THAT I RECOMMEND STRONGLY THAT TASK FORCE NOT REPEAT NOT COME ON DAYS CURRENTLY SCHEDULED, BUT DEFER VISIT FOR WEEK TO TEN DAYS.

5. FOR DEPARTMENT. ALTHOUGH TASK FORCE HAS PROBABLY DEPARTED WASHINGTON, I SHOULD APPRECIATE ANY ACTIONS YOU MIGHT TAKE THERE THAT COULD LEAD TO DELAY OF VISIT. I MIGHT SAY IN PASSING THAT I FIND IT INCONCEIVABLE THAT NO ONE IN USG NOTIFIED EMBASSY OF THIS TRIP OR PERCEIVED POSSIBLE UNINTENTIONAL NEGATIVE IMPLICATIONS. ALTHOUGH POLITICAL PITFALLS OF SUCH OVERSIGHT ON THIS VISIT ARE MUCH GREATER THAN AVERAGE, THIS IS NOT THE FIRST AID/W PVO VISIT TO SIERRA LEONE THAT HAS BEEN POORLY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COORDINATED LOCALLY AND HAS DETRACTED (RATHER THAN ADDED AS MUST BE AID/W'S AND CONGRESS'S INTENTION) FROM US INTERESTS HERE.
SAMUELS

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 02-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Source: CORE
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Film Number: D770152-1236
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From: FREETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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